

## Oireachtas Update



In the Dáil this week the Order for the Second Stage and the Second Stage of the Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill will be on the agenda on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday morning the Protection of Life in Pregnancy (Amendment) (Fatal Foetal Abnormalities) Bill 2013 will be on the Dáil agenda.

The Seanad will deal with Commencement Matters on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2014 will be at Committee Stage in the Seanad on Thursday.

On Tuesday morning the Joint Committee on Transport and Communications will resume discussions on the impact arising from the potential sale of Aer Lingus to International Airlines Group. The Committee of Inquiry into the Banking Crisis will host a private meeting on Wednesday and a public hearing on Thursday.

## €35 million to be invested in dairy sector

The Government and industry in Ireland are to invest €35 million in two dairy processing facilities. Approximately €25 million will be invested in a new dairy processing technology centre hosted by the University of Limerick and will involve the recruitment of 52 highly-skilled researchers. A further €10 million will be invested in the expansion of the Moorepark facility in Fermoy, County Cork.

This investment has been timed to coincide with the dairy quotas which, in just under two months, will be lifted for the first time in thirty years. As a result of the quotas being lifted, the Irish milk pool is expecting to see a 50% increase by 2020.

## EU Data Protection Day celebrated

On Wednesday January 28th European institutions marked the 9th annual Data Protection Day. The negotiations of the two-part reform of the EU's data protection rules are forecast to conclude during 2015, and will contain changes in the form of a Regulation setting out a general EU framework for data protection, and a Directive on protecting personal data processed for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal offences and other judicial activities.

In December 2014, the Irish Government announced that the budget of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner would be effectively doubled from €1.89 million in 2014 to €3.65 million in 2015, in order to allow for the recruitment of additional expert staff as Ireland prepares for pan-European Cooperation under the proposed new reforms.

## First steps made in establishment of electoral commission

A consultation paper, developed in the Department of the Environment, Community and the Local Government, for the establishment of an electoral commission in Ireland has been published by Minister Alan Kelly, and sent on to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht. In the Statement of Government Priorities, published in July 2014, it was outlined that preparation for the establishment of an Electoral Commission was being advanced "with a view to bringing forward legislation for the establishment of such a Commission in early 2015".

The Committee on the Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht has been asked to consider the eleven questions outlined in the text. Minister Kelly has noted that: "While there is recognition and a consensus that we need an electoral commission, there is a divergence of views on how it should operate, what its functions and form should be."

The eleven questions outlined include issues surrounding the functions an electoral commission should be assigned; the roles that current electoral management employees in Ireland would continue to perform; the cost implications of a commission and the timescale to establish it; its potential members and how they would be appointed; mechanisms to provide for accountability, and what part the Oireachtas, the Government and the public would play in the accountability arrangements. The Committee has also been asked to consider how the independence of such a commission could be assured.

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## DAIL

## Tuesday 3 February

**2.00 p.m.**  
Questions (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport)

**3.15 p.m.**  
Leaders Questions

**3.36 p.m.**  
Questions (Taoiseach)

**4.36 p.m.**  
Order of Business

Motion re PQ Rota change (Department of Social Protection and Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources) (without debate)

Motion re Membership Change (Technical Group) (without Debate)

Topical Issues

Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage (Department of Justice and Equality)

**7.30 p.m.**  
Private Members Business Motion re European Debt

**9.00 p.m.**  
Dáil Adjourns

## Wednesday 4 February

**9.30 a.m.**  
Questions (Minister for Finance)

**10.45 a.m.**  
Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed)  
(Department of Justice and Equality)

Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage  
(Department of Finance)

**12 p.m.**  
Leaders Questions

**12.21p.m.**  
Order of Business

**12.51p.m.**  
SOS

**1.51 p.m.**  
Topical Issues

**2.39 p.m.**  
Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed)  
(Department of Justice and Equality)

Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015 - Order for Second Stage and Second Stage  
(Department of Finance)

**5.30 p.m.**  
Garda Siochana (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2014 - Order for Report, Report and Final Stages  
(Department of Justice and Equality)

**7.30 p.m.**  
Private Members Business Motion re European Debt

**9 p.m.**  
Dáil Adjourns

## Thursday 5 February

**9.30 a.m.**  
Questions (Minister for Social Protection)

**10.45 a.m.**  
Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed)  
(Department of Justice and Equality)

Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (Resumed)  
(Department of Finance)

Customs Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed)  
(Department of Finance)

**12.00 noon**  
Leaders Questions

**12.21 p.m.**  
Order of Business

Personal Insolvency (Amendment) Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed)  
(Department of Justice and Equality)

Consumer Protection (Regulation of Credit Servicing Firms) Bill 2015 - Second Stage (resumed)  
(Department of Finance)

Customs Bill 2014 - Second Stage (Resumed)  
(Department of Finance)

**4.42 p.m.**  
Topical Issues

**5.30 p.m.**  
Dáil Adjourns

## Friday 6 February

**10.00 a.m.**  
Protection of Life in Pregnancy (Amendment) (Fatal Foetal Abnormalities) Bill 2013

**12.00 noon**  
Thirty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution (No. 2) Bill

## SEANAD

## Tuesday 3 February

**2.30 p.m.**  
Commencement Matters

**3.30 p.m.**  
Order of Business

Motion regarding the early signature of the Central Bank (Amendment) Bill 2014 – (without debate)  
(Department of Finance)

**4.45 p.m.**  
Gender Recognition Bill 2014 – Committee Stage  
(Department of Social Protection)

**7.00 p.m.**  
Irish Collective Asset-management Vehicles Bill 2014 – Second Stage  
(Department of Finance)

## Wednesday 4 February

**10.30 a.m.**  
Commencement Matters

**12 noon**  
Order of Business

**1.15 p.m.**  
Statements on Overseas Development  
(Minister of State for Development, Trade Promotion and North South Co-operation)

**3.30 p.m.**  
Workplace Relations Bill 2014 – Second Stage  
(Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation)

**5.30 p.m.**  
Private Members Business re Mediation Services

**7.30 p.m.**  
Seanad Adjourns

## Thursday 5 February

**10.30 a.m.**  
Commencement Matters

**12.00 noon**  
Order of Business

**1.15 p.m.**  
Regulation of Lobbying Bill 2014 – Committee Stage  
(Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform)



## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

## Tuesday 3 February

11 a.m.

**Transport and Communications (Joint)****CR4, LH**

**AGENDA:** The impact arising from the potential sale of Aer Lingus to International Airlines Group on Irish tourism, business and employment (resumed) [Representatives from IBEC; Irish Hotels Federation and the Restaurant Association of Ireland]

1.30 p.m.

**Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (Joint)****CR2, LH**

**AGENDA:** Women Entrepreneurs, Women in the Tech Industry, Skill Needs and the need for Balanced Regional Development of entrepreneurial hubs (resumed)[Representatives of Enterprise Ireland]

2 p.m.

**Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Joint)****CR3, LH**

**AGENDA:** Potential difficulties and price volatility facing the Dairy Industry in 2015 [Representatives from Bord Bia; Irish Co-Operative Organisation Society (ICOS) and Positive Farmers]

2.15 p.m.

**Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht (Joint)****CR4, LH****AGENDA:**

General Scheme of the Planning and Development (No. 2) Bill 2014 [Officials from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government]

5.30 p.m.

**Children and Youth Affairs (Select sub)****CR3, LH****AGENDA:**

2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 40 (Children and Youth Affairs) [Minister for Children and Youth Affairs]

## Wednesday 4 February

9.30 a.m.

**Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)****CR1, LH****AGENDA:**

Private Meeting

9.30 a.m.

**Transport, Tourism and Sport (Select sub)****CR4, LH****AGENDA:**

2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 31 (Transport, Tourism and Sport) [Minister on Transport, Tourism and Sport]

10 a.m.

**Justice, Defence and Equality (Joint)****CR2, LH****AGENDA:**

Private Meeting

1 p.m.

**Education and Social Protection (Joint)****CR3, LH****AGENDA:**

National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030, and the Higher Education System Performance Framework 2014–2016 [Higher Education Authority (HEA)]

2 p.m.

**Justice, Defence and Equality (Select)****CR2, LH****AGENDA:**

Session A: 2 p.m.

Redress for Women Resident in Certain Institutions Bill 2014; and

Session B: 3.30 p.m.

2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 20 (Garda Síochána); Vote 21 (Prisons); Vote 24 (Justice and Equality); and Vote 25 (Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission)

[Minister for Justice and Equality]

2.30 p.m.

**Foreign Affairs and Trade (Joint)****CR1, LH****AGENDA:**

Bilateral relations between Ireland and Nigeria and the activities of Boko Haram [Mrs. Bolere Elizabeth Ketebu, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Ireland]

4 p.m.

**Public Service, Oversight and Petitions (Joint)****CR3, LH****(a) 4 p.m. (P)****(b) 4.30 p.m. (T)****AGENDA:**

(a) Private; and

(b) Public Petitions received

## Thursday 5 February

9.30 a.m.

**Health and Children (Joint)****CR2, LH****AGENDA:**

Private Meeting

9.30 a.m.

**Inquiry into the Banking Crisis (Joint)****CR3, LH****AGENDA:** Session A: 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Public Hearing [Professor William Black, University of Missouri–Kansas City on Banking Policy, Systems and Practices]

Session B: 11.45 a.m. - 1.45 p.m.

Public Hearing [Mr. Mario Nava, European Commission on Banking Regulation, Supervision and Financial Stability]

10 a.m.

**Public Accounts****CR1, LH****AGENDA:**

(i) Business of the Committee; and

(ii) Comptroller and Auditor General Appropriation Accounts 2013

a. Chapter 6: Land Aggregation Scheme; and

b. Chapter 7: Matters arising from audit of

Vote 25 Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to water services

[Officials from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government]

10.15 a.m.

**Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement (Joint)****CR4, LH****AGENDA:** Developments in cross border

transport infrastructure in border areas with

specific reference to a. A5 Road Project and

b. Narrow Water Bridge Project [Minister for

Transport, Tourism and Sport]

10.30 a.m.

**Health (Select sub)****CR2, LH****AGENDA:**

2015 Revised Estimates for Public Services - Vote 38 (Health) [Minister for Health]



## **DATA PROTECTION CONFERENCE 2015**

*Horizon scanning for 2015 and the implications  
of Data Protection Reform*

**Wednesday, 25th March 2015**

**The Westin Hotel**

**Dublin 2**

**Confirmed speakers at this year's event include:**

***Minister Dara Murphy TD, Helen Dixon, Data Protection Commissioner, Colin Rooney,  
Rob Corbet, Partners, Arthur Cox and Dr Eoin O'Dell, Trinity College Dublin***

**This year's conference will focus on:**

- Data Protection in Ireland and the Government's key priorities for 2015
- The remit and focus of the Data Protection Commissioner
- The sign of things to come – the EU Regulation for General Data Protection – an update and implications for data controllers and individuals across Member States
- Achieving data protection compliance now and into the future – some practical guidance on meeting data protection obligations
- Smart Cities: The Privacy Challenges of the Internet of Things
- Data Protection - Key developments in 2014 and 2015 and how they affect you

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